

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01825 151011Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 DOTE-00 EB-08 COME-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /043 W
-----070461 160406Z /11
R 150845Z JUN 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1088
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1825

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN CH
SUBJ: PRC RAILWAY PLANS AND STATISTICS

REF: PEKING 365

1. SUMMARY: A WEST GERMAN RAILWAY DELEGATION VISITED CHINA FROM MAY 15-25 AT THE INVITATION OF THE PRC RAILWAYS MINISTRY. THE CHINESE PROVIDED THE DELEGATION WITH SOME NEW INFORMATION ON THE CHINESE SYSTEM AND THEIR PLANS. PRC OFFICIALS SAID CURRENT FREIGHT VOLUME IS ONE BILLION TONS AND THAT THIS WILL DOUBLE BY 1985; OVER 400,000 PERSONS ARE WORKING ON NEW LINES, AND PLANS ARE TO ADD 2-3,000 KMS. OF TRACK A YEAR; THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE RAILWAY SYSTEM, COUNTING DOUBLE TRACKS AND FEEDER LINES, IS OVER 100,000 KMS. THIS INFORMATION SERVES IN SOME CASES TO UPDATE AND CORROBORATE INFORMATION OBTAINED BY A FRENCH RAILWAY DELEGATION LAST YEAR (REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. A GERMAN FEDERAL RAILWAY DELEGATION VISITED PEKING FROM MAY 15-25 AT THE INVITATION OF THE PRC MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS. THE DELEGATION'S MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO HOLD SEMINARS ON MODERN RAILWAY TECHNOLOGY. THEIR PRINCIPAL CHINESE HOST WAS A VICE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, KUO WEI-CHENG. THEY ALSO MET WITH VICE PREMIER KANG SHIN-EN.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 01825 151011Z

3. DURING THE TEN DAYS THE DELEGATION OBTAINED FROM KNOWLEDGEABLE CHINESE OFFICIALS THE FOLLOWING FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE PRC SYSTEM. THE PRC HAS BUILT 28,000 KMS. OF NEW RAILWAYS SINCE 1949, AN AVERAGE OF 1,000 KMS. A YEAR. IN SOME YEARS 2-3,000 KMS. OF NEW LINES WERE BUILT. NOW OVER 50,000 KMS. OF TRUNK LINES

ARE IN USE. THE TOTAL LENGTH OF LINES IN USE, COUNTING FEEDER LIND DOUBLE TRACKS, IS OVER 100,000 KMS. THE PRESENT GOAL IS TO ADD 2-3,000 KMS. OF LINES A YEAR TO THE NETWORK (IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS ONLY UNTIL 1985 OR WHETHER IT EXTENDS TO 2000). OVER 400,000 PERSONS ARE WORKING ON NEW LINES.

4. FREIGHT VOLUME IS NOW ABOUT ONE BILLION TONS A YEAR. BY 1985 THIS IS PLANNED TO DOUBLE. PASSENGER VOLUME IS ABOUT ONE BILLION PERSONS. FREIGHT TRAINS HAVE AN AVERAG OF 50 WAGONS. AVERAGE SPEED FOR FREIGHT TRAINS IS 60-70 KMS. AN HOUR; THAT FOR PASSENGER TRAINS IS 120 KMS. AN HOUR. THE LOCOMOTOVE PARK IS 8,000 STEAM LOCOMOTIVES, 2000 DIESELS AND 200 ELECTRICS. STEAM LOCOMOTIVE PROCUTION WILL CEASE BEFORE 1985.

5. THE CHINESE PLAN TO INCRASE THE LENGTH OF FREIGHT HANDLING SIDINGS IN RAILWAY STATIONS FROM THE PRESENTLY STANDARD 850 METERS TO 1,250 METERS. THEY ALSO PLAN TO ELECTRIFY THE PEKING-CANTON RAILWAY (NO TARGET DATE GIVEN).

6. COMMENT: THE TOTALFREIGHT FIGURE IS HIGHER THAN THAT GIVEN TO THE FRENCH (REFTEL) BUT IS CLOSER TO THE USG ESTIMATE (945 MMT -- 1975) AND IS PROBABLY A CHINESE UP-DATING. THE 1985 PLAN ASSUMES AN INCREASE OF 9-10 PERCENT A YEAR AND DOUBTLESS REFLECTS GENERAL INDUSTRIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 01825 151011Z

GROWTH TARGETS. THE FIGURES GIVEN FOR LENGTH OF LINES CLARIFY AN ISSUE RAISED REFTEL. THE 50,000 KMS. FIGURE IS OBVIOUSY A ROUNDING. THE RECENT OPENING OF A NEW 916 KMS. TRUNK LINE FROM HSIANGFAN TO CHUNGKING (NCNA JUNE 12) SUGGESTS THAT THE FIGURE IS ACTUALLY SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE 50,000 KMS. THE CHINESE SEEM TO HAVE FAIRLY AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, BUT THESE ARE PROBABLY LONG-TERM. ELECTRIFICATION OF THE PEKING-CANTON RAILWAY, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD REQUIRE INSTALLATION OF GREATLY INCREASED ELECTRIC POWER CAPACITY (PROBABLY FROM HYDRO PLANTS) FOR AFFECTED GRIDS, AND THIS WOULD TAKE AS MUCH AS A DECADE. NO GROWTH ESTIMATS ARE VAILABLE FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC BUT THIS IS PRY GROWING FAST. ONE METHOD OF COPING WITH THE GROWTH IS LIKELY TO BE DOUBLE-DECK COACHES. USLO OFFICER SAW AN ENTIRE PASSENGER TRAIN OF APPARENTLY CHINESE-MADE DOUBLE-DECK COACHES BETWEEN SHANGHAI AND HANGCHOW IN EARLY JUNE.

WOODCOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, RAILROADS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PEKING01825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780366-0238
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780653/aaaabttg.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f538e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PEKING 365
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2330660
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC RAILWAY PLANS AND STATISTICS
TAGS: ETRN, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f538e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014